1:Dobrizhoffer M-5 (ca. 1760) 1822
514 Abipcn 514

727 628 721 Whenever an Abipon dies by the hand of an enemy, the nearest relation of the deceased takes upon him to avenge his death. It is his business to invite his countrymen and hordesmen, or even the inhabitants of another horde, to join their arms with his, to lead them against the enemy, and, when the attack is made, to go first into battle. As they lend assistance to friendly nations, they seek it in turn from them, either when they are preparing for war, or when they apprehend it from others whom they deem themselves unequal to contend with alone. But, as Europe so often experiences, little confidence is to be placed in auxiliary forces. 648 The friendship of the Indians is notoriously [572] fickle and unsteady; for, as they enter into alliance merely with a view to their own advan- [181] tage, they will suddenly turn their backs on their greatest friends, should the hope of the smallest emolument preponderate.